



**Connecticut Conference  
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street  
Hartford, CT 06105-2281

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 875 An Act Expanding Connecticut's Offshore Wind Energy Portfolio and in Support of H.B. 7156 An Act Concerning the Procurement of Energy Derived from Offshore wind**  
**Submitted by, Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate**  
**Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ**  
**March 4, 2019**

Dear Members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 875 and House Bill 7156.

I am writing on behalf of the 233 congregations and more than 67,000 people in our state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members. In 2016, the assembled delegates and ministers of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ met and voted on Resolutions which call upon the Connecticut Conference to support the Implementation of Legislation to Help Achieve State Mandated Reductions in Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Support the Increase in Renewable Energy Resources in Connecticut.

- In 2018, the General Assembly approved landmark climate and energy bills setting more aggressive targets for both greenhouse gas emissions reduction (45% below 2001 levels by 2030) and renewable energy (40% by 2030). Both bills passed by large bipartisan majorities.
- Governor Lamont has called for an even more aggressive timetable that envisions Connecticut becoming carbon neutral and securing 100% of its power from renewable sources by 2050. Offshore wind will play an essential role in making that vision a reality.
- I support the Committee's call for up to 2000 MW of offshore wind, but the bill should be amended to make that a mandate requiring DEEP to procure 2000 MW by 2030. MA and NY have solid commitments like that, and if we don't send a strong message to the industry that Connecticut wants to be a regional hub for offshore wind staging and supply chain activities then those jobs will go elsewhere.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony for these bills.

Blessings,  
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